

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-14, 19, 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tarabbia; claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tarabbia in view of Applicants' Specification.

Claim 11 has been amended to clarify the limitation that the contacts to the gate conductive layer are formed over the contact isolation region. This is described in the disclosure and shown in Figures 2(a) and 2(b) of the instant disclosure. This limitation is not described or taught in the Tarabbia patent and claim 11 is allowable over the cited art. Claims 12-14 depend on claim 11 and contain the limitations of claim 11. Claims 12 – 14 are therefore also allowable over the cited art.

Claim 19 comprises the limitation of forming gate layer contacts to said gate conductive layer wherein said gate layer contacts overlie an isolation region. As described above this limitation is not found in the Tarabbia patent and claim 19 is allowable over the cited art. Claims 20 – 22 all depend on claim 19 and therefore contains all the limitations of claim 19. Claims 20-22 are therefore also allowable over the cited art.

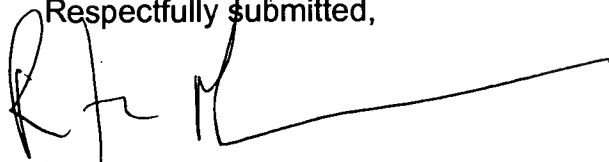
In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including

extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated,
Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. McLarty', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter K. McLarty
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,923

Texas Instruments Incorporated
P.O. Box 655474, MS 3999
Dallas, TX 75265
(972) 917-4258